

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 INT-08 OEP-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10

SS-14 H-02 INRE-00 RSR-01 /121 W
----- 010544

P 091440 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2311

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0910

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, SS

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM - JAMES CLEMENTS & ASSOCIATES' PROPOSED
ACAJUTLA REFINERY

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0741

1. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S EARLIEST VIEWS AS TO THE
FEASIBILITY OF THE PROJECT OUTLINED IN REFTEL AND INFORMATION
ON THE BONA FIDES OF CLEMENTS & ASSOCIATES.

2. JAMES A. CLEMENTS AND B. F. CLIFTON MET WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER BORGONOVO FOR THREE HOURS MARCH 7. ALTHOUGH THEY
DID NOT THEREAFTER CALL AT THE EMBASSY, THEY DID TELEPHONE TO
SAY THAT THERE WAS A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE PROJECT DURING
THE MEETING. THE PROPOSAL NOW APPARENTLY AWAITS GOAC
RESPONSE BEFORE A FEASIBILITY STUDY IS BEGUN, WHICH,
ACCORDING TO CLIFTON, COULD BE WITHIN A MONTH. AT CLIFTON'S
REQUEST, THE EMBASSY PROVIDED MINISTER BORGONOVO THE COPY

OF THE PROCON'S FEASIBILITY STUDY OF MONKEY POINT--
" PROPOSED NICARAGUAN EXPORT REFINERY AND VLCC TERMINAL
EVALUATION STUDY," AND A COPY OF THE GON " DIARIO OFICIAL"
OF APRIL 29,1972 WHICH REPORTS DECRETO NO. 74- MEIC PROVIDING
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THE CONCESSION FOR MONKEY POINT, BOTH OF WHICH CLIFTON HAD GIVEN THE AMBASSADOR.

3. IN ARRANGING THIS APPOINTMENT WITH THE MINISTER, WE EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT THE EMBASSY WAS NOT MAKING ANY JUDGMENT CONCERNING THE PROJECT OR VOUCHING FOR THE BONA FIDES OF CLEMENTS & ASSOCIATES. WE NEITHER WISH TO APPEAR TO BE A PARTY TO THIS PROPOSAL, NOR DO WE WANT THE GOES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY ONLY TO DISCOVER LATER THAT IT IS DEALING WITH UNRELIABLE U. S. BUSINESSMEN. ADDRESSEE COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROJECT'S FEASIBILITY AND BONA FIDES OF JAMES CLEMENTS AND ASSOCIATES WOULD BE APPRECIATED AND USED WITH ANY RECOMMENDED RESERVATIONS.
MOSKOWITZ

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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